

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification as follows:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/215,979, filed December 18, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,703,196, which claims the benefit of German Application Serial No. 197 57 980.9 filed December 24, 1997 and German Application Serial No. 198 16 550.1 filed April 15, 1998.